REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

The foregoing amendment cancels (without prejudice) claims rejected in the Office Action, and rewrites in independent form appropriate ones of the claims indicated as being allowable but objected to for depending from a rejected base claim. Thus, the amendment presents no new issues and merely complies with requirements of form in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.116.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, all of the claims pending in this application are now seen to be in a condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance of claims 1-10, 12-16, 30, 31, 38-45, 52-85, 87, 89, 92, 97-101, 108-118, 121, 124, 131, 132, 147-149, 153, 164, 166, 177, 179, 190, 192-194, 205-207, 218-220 and 256 is therefore earnestly solicited.

The examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney of record at (972) 516-0030 if such would expedite the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

KONNEKER & SMITH, P.C.

Marlin R. Smith

Attorney for Applicant Registration No. 38,310

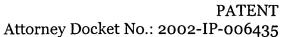
Dated: 0.1. 25, 2004

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450,

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